

Marion County Judge Sentences a DUI Driver to Nearly a Year in Jail for Getting Behind The Wheel While Impaired

On August 1st, 2023, Marion County Circuit Court Judge, Lindsay Partridge, sentenced 28-year-old Manuel Sanchez-Sanchez to 364 days in the Marion County Jail. Sanchez-Sanchez plead guilty to four separate DUIs spanning from October 12, 2022 to February 10, 2023.

Sanchez-Sanchez's blood alcohol levels in each one of his DUIs ranged from 0.19% to 0.23%. In Oregon, a driver is legally intoxicated if his or her blood alcohol level is .08% or greater. In each instance, Sanchez-Sanchez was more than twice that.

On October 12, 2022, Sanchez-Sanchez was pulled over after nearly hitting a semi-truck. Sanchez-Sanchez was driving in the opposite lane at the time. On November 11, 2022, Sanchez-Sanchez was found passed out behind the wheel, with his engine running. On December 7, 2022, Sanchez-Sanchez had rear-ended another vehicle and tried to walk away when law enforcement arrived. And finally, on February 10, 2022, Sanchez-Sanchez was arrested when his vehicle was high-centered on a curb. In each one of Sanchez-Sanchez's DUI arrests, alcohol was found inside his automobile.

Sanchez-Sanchez was released from custody after each incident until his fourth pending DUI, when he was finally denied pretrial release in March of 2023.

Marion County Deputy District Attorney, Teresa Schulte, who prosecuted the case, said, "With the number of incidents and such high degrees of intoxication in each case, Mr. Sanchez-Sanchez was a grave threat to the public. This is something the Marion County DA's Office takes very seriously. Mr. Sanchez-Sanchez was unable or unwilling to stop driving while intoxicated so it was important to get Mr. Sanchez-Sanchez off the streets."

Mr. Sanchez-Sanchez did not have any prior DUIs. Therefore, under Oregon law, all of his DUIs were misdemeanors. Now, with four convictions for DUI, should Mr. Sanchez-Sanchez get another DUI after his release from jail, it would be a felony, qualifying him for prison time with the Oregon Department of Corrections.